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More than 1,000 elderly, disabled Mass. residents to receive help moving back to community

By [Kay Lazar](#) / Globe Staff

Roughly 1,800 elderly and disabled Massachusetts residents will receive help moving back to their homes and communities from nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, through new contracts announced Tuesday by the Patrick administration.

Money for the initiative comes from a five-year, \$110 million federal grant awarded in 2011, according to the state's Health and Human Services department. Over 400 residents have already been helped in the program, known as Money Follows the Person.

The program awards contracts to community-based senior services and other agencies. The agencies then help to smooth the transfer of residents from long-term care facilities to community settings by planning and arranging the types of supports the individuals will need to live safely in the community. Those supports may include locating affordable housing, home health care, and transportation.

"Through this program, we will be able to better provide cost-effective quality care, while promoting self-sufficiency, dignity, and independent living in the community," state Health and Human Services secretary John Polanowicz, said in a statement.

The program is targeted toward Medicaid-eligible residents in nursing facilities, chronic and rehabilitation hospitals, and public health hospitals who prefer to receive their long-term services and supports in the community. Residents on Medicaid with intellectual disabilities who are living in intermediate care facilities, and some living in psychiatric hospitals, also qualify for the program, the department said.